



how **NOT** *to get*
ARRESTED
at a DEMONSTRATION





times-up.org



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Snatch Squad • Undercover Police that ride around in cars, usually minivans, around the perimeter of a demonstration. They swing open doors and grab protesters; they are extremely unpredictable and hard to protect yourself from.

Sound Canon • Can also be known as LRAD Long Range Acoustic Device. They are "non-lethal" weapons that injure people by the use of sound. It can destroy your eardrums and also cause nausea and discomfort.

Tear Gas • Can be a liquid, but most of the time is a gas that affects the lungs and makes your eyes tear, extremely uncomfortable and can cause harsh short term effects on the lungs and the eyes.

Taser Gun • A taser is an electroshock weapon. It fires two small dart-like electrodes, which stay connected to the main unit by conductors, to deliver electric current to disrupt voluntary control of muscles.



in group decision-making process through spokes council meetings. Get helpful information and maps.

Jail Support - is keeping track of people who have been arrested as they move through the arrest and arraignment process and providing comfort to them when they are released. It is a way of showing solidarity with arrested activists and a way of taking care of friends and community.

Legal Observers - These are lawyers or people assisting lawyers that are there to help you. Ask them questions. They can be identified by wearing brightly colored hats and can be seen carrying notepads. Sometimes they are associated with the National Lawyers Guild or the Civil Liberty's Union, all lawyers may be independent or working together for the action.

Medics - usually volunteers and can be identified through red crosses on their hats or t-shirts, they also usually have backpacks. They are carrying light first aid and water and limejuice for tear gas related incidences.

Pepper Spray - This is a chemical compound that irritates the eyes to cause tears, pain, and even temporary blindness. To avoid severe harm protect yourself with tight fitting swimming goggles, and a bandana soaked in vinegar that can be worn around your nose and mouth another way to avoid irritation is to put lime juice on the fabric protecting your face. If pepper spray does get on your skin, it may dry but can get reactivated by water. To remove allow the pepper spray to dry and dab your skin with a dry towel or apply gentle shampoo and wipe away.

Personal Pepper Ball - The pepper ball or tear gas ball is much like getting shot with a paintball gun except when the ball hits you it breaks open and personally delivers your own tear gas. This can be painful when it hits you, but worse if you don't run immediately and hold your breath.

Rubber Bullets - Bullets made from or coated with rubber or plastic.

Scouts - (People to help you)- At a roving demonstration or March, intelligence can be gained by scouts or forward observers. Some of the most current information will be coming from people on bicycles because they see the whole picture.

Shark Theory - Always stay on the move, otherwise you increase your chances of being arrested.

How Not to Get Arrested at a Demonstration

By Times Up Environmental Organization

WHILE ANYONE COULD BE ARRESTED AT ANY TIME, ESPECIALLY AT POLITICAL GATHERINGS, READING THIS PAMPHLET'S HELPFUL TIPS WILL DECREASE YOUR ODDS. THE INFORMATION IN THIS PAMPHLET WAS ORGANIZED BY TIME'S UP! WHICH IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP FROM NEW YORK THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY THAT HAS TRAVELED AROUND THE WORLD TO PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT DEMONSTRATIONS. WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER THESE HELPFUL GUIDELINES TO AID TO YOUR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS. IN AMERICA WE HAVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT, WHICH GIVES US THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH AND THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE WITHOUT A PERMIT.

1. Preparation



Before any large or small rally, the first thing you should do is find out about the cause, the people associated with the direct action, and the location of the direct action and its surroundings. Attending a demonstration is not like attending a dinner party. As soon as you arrive, you will be overwhelmed by the situation and not know how to react, if you have not prepared properly.

Usually, you can gain information about the direct action on the Internet. You can also find links about the organization behind it and their previous actions. There's less of a chance that you'll be arrested at demonstrations led by experienced groups. If you're going to work with an affinity group or play a role in the demonstration, it's best to team up with a buddy beforehand. If this is your first action, always team up with someone who has more experience than you. Don't be a know-it-all. Absorb as much information as possible, as you will need it later on.

2. Location



Once you've established the group that is organizing the demonstration, and what your role in it might be, you need to research the location. Always find a map of the area with subways and trains. Understanding the location is important when you need to move or run. If you have time, scout out the location beforehand with your friends. Note alleyways and familiarize yourself with parks and street names.

3. Reading up on the Action

Not only should you read about the group organizing the action, you should read controversial articles written by journalists and police. Don't let them scare you, though. They are designed to intimidate activists and decrease their attendance. They are useful, however, because they show what the city is doing to slow the action. The local governance often tries to change laws regarding public assembly in anticipation of demonstrations.

Helicopters. They can be used to your advantage to find the march if you get lost. Usually helicopters are flying right above the demonstration. They won't hurt you.

During large arrests, police usually bring buses or smaller paddy-wagons. Beware of them, this usually means arrests are about to occur. They are positioning their vehicles so after the arrests, they have someplace to put you.

So the demonstration is almost over and you haven't been arrested yet and you're feeling a lot more confident. Don't be.

At most large scale demonstrations most of the arrests come towards the end of the demonstrations. Stay sharp and stay the shark. It's never over until you're home. Do not stick around after the demonstration is over unless you're doing jail support or helping with Indie-Media. Go directly home, you've won the chess game.

Glossary

Arresting Officers • While any officer can arrest you, usually at large demonstrations there are people assigned to do so. These officers usually work in a team and have essential commanding officers and usually have large plastic handcuffs attached to their belts.

The Box • an invisible perimeter around the demonstration or march. Once this box is completed with police, you are in a very bad position. You must always have an open box.

Cointelpro • While actual Cointelpro (aka "Counter Intelligence Program") was started by the FBI in the late 50's modern day Cointelpro tactics are widely used against activists and they usually are very effective by spreading negative divisionary rumors about people in your group or your friends. These tactics are extremely effective at breaking up volunteer community activities. Try your best to stay positive, don't spread rumors and rely only on fact.

Concussion Grenade • A grenade that relies for its effect on the blast or its detonation rather than the fragmentation of its case and is often designed to stun rather than kill.

Convergence Center • At some demonstrations you will find a convergence center and a media center. These are places where you can get information about the demonstration and participate

9. Identifying vehicles

At some demonstrations the police will be using something called a snatch-squad. Out of all the situations at a demonstration, the snatch squad is the most difficult to protect yourself from being arrested in. They usually are operating independently, lacking a chain of command, and can strike quickly. You have to monitor them. Police could jump out of these cars at any time and grab you. They usually operate with mini-vans that they rent in mass numbers. Familiarize yourself with these vehicles. They will be parked on the rally's perimeter. It's difficult to protect yourself from these vehicles, so you have to recognize them and distance yourself from them. This is also where close housing really pays off.

Also try to recognize the under covers' cars. They are smaller. These vehicles are usually not in the march, but around the perimeter. They have blacked out windows. They're used for intelligence gathering, antennas on the roofs or the trunks and can have missing hubcaps or mismatching rims on their wheels. They don't maintain these cars because they don't own them.



SUVs with blacked out windows. These are vehicles that are used to spy on people. Behind the blacked out windows, they're usually shooting video footage and photographing demonstrators.

L-rad vehicles mean police are going to attack demonstrators with sound waves.

If you see horses, these are old school. They're not effective at demonstrations, but police use them to break people's concentration. Demonstrators usually love animals and hate to see them pushed around.

Scooters, bicycles and motorcycles. Be wary of these because they can move fluidly through demonstrations. Also, if you're on a bicycle, they're usually the only people who can catch you. If there are not many scooters or bicycle police, you have less of a chance of being arrested if you're on a bicycle.



4. How to Pack for a Demonstration

A backpack or a fanny pack is a must. Essential gear to pack inside it includes:

- A plastic bag to protect your things in the rain
- A recording device, whether it be a video camera or a still camera
- A phone. You should have the numbers you need already plugged into it. You might want to change names of your friends, though. Never use last names. Remember to always turn your tracking locator off. And if available preset live stream broadcasting.
- Inside the backpack, you should also have something in case it gets cold at night. A light sweater, a hat, a windbreaker, rain gear.
- Earplugs
- Tight-fitting swimming goggles
- About ten feet of rope
- Small roll of duck tape or electrical tape
- A sharpie marker
- A map of the area
- A compass
- An extra pair of socks
- Money
- Flashlight
- Energy-dense snacks
- Sunglasses
- Chargers for your equipment. You never know - you could get stuck.
- Extra batteries for your phone
- Hoodie or bandana



Your clothes - it is best to wear sneakers or some type of running shoes. You should be ready to run at all times. Most demonstrators will probably wear dark colors. You should have a slightly different appearance than other demonstrators. It's not bad to be clean-cut. You might even want to wear bright colors, without being obnoxious. People wearing dark colors are usually arrested first, especially if they're wearing hoodies. Try to wear lightweight layers of different colored shirts so that you can switch them if you feel you've been targeted.

8. Police's Body Language

Notice police's body language. They protect themselves before making arrests. Usually at a demonstration, the police will be forming a line and the orders will be coming from another officer who is in a slightly different formation. He's usually off to the side somewhere or right behind them, but with radio communications arrest instructions can come from anywhere. If you can spot him, you can see the signs he is sending his officers. They usually adjust their equipment before they make an arrest, you might see them putting on gloves, gas masks or checking their plastic handcuffs. Again, you need to check your perimeter at any sign of police activity.



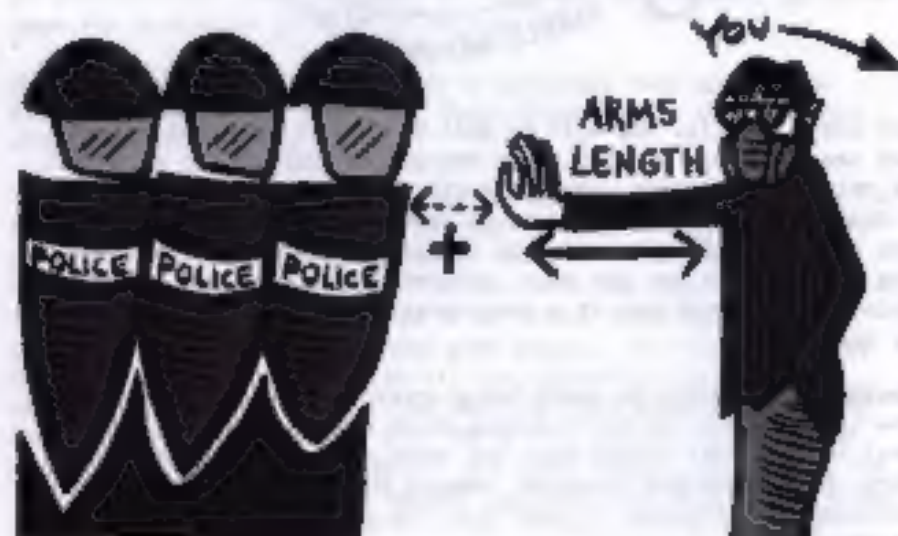
Noticing the police's clothes is important because some of the police are going to arrest you and some have different functions. Look out for plastic handcuffs. If you see anyone wearing a large number of plastic handcuffs on the sides of their body that means he's an arresting officer. You need to watch out for those. While any police officer could arrest you, some are assigned to do so.

It is also always good to have a backup plan. Having a back up plan in almost every decision or situation you're in, helps increase your odds of not being arrested.

Be super observant. If you think something is about to go down, get on the sidewalk as soon as possible, climb a pole and see what's going on. Check your perimeter and watch for the box. Make sure you always have a way out. Once the police or authorities complete a box, you need to be on the other side of it. Also look for fire escapes that you could climb and alleyways you could duck down - anything to free you from the box. In most cases, it's not what you can see but what you can't see that will get you arrested. Keep your eyes alert for anything unusual. Breaking a protestor's concentration leads to immediate arrests. For example, police like to drive their cars or ride their horses through groups of people to upset them. Don't allow yourself to be involved in this - take it as a sign that police will be arresting demonstrators soon and run away.

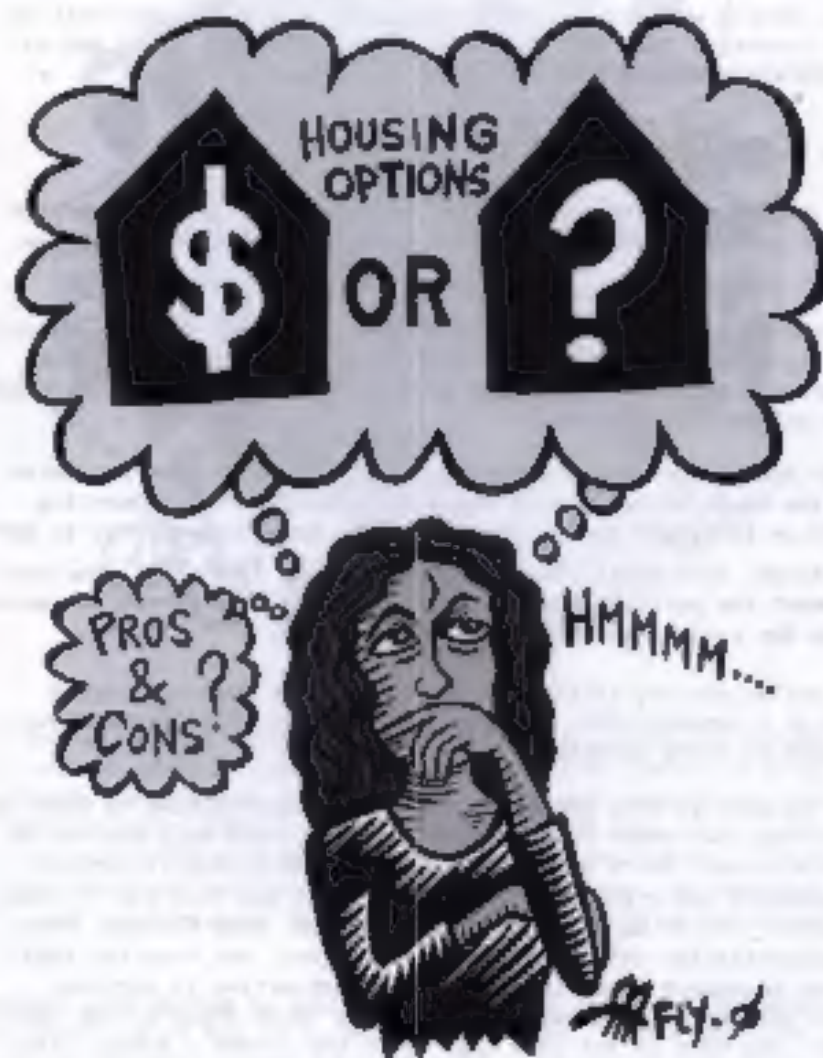
7. Positioning

Don't get too close to police. If you're in arms-distance that is not where you want to be. Always keep your distance. Don't be at the front of the march or the back. Be the rover and intelligence gatherer, fresh intelligence is key to not getting arrested. Move slightly faster than other people. Police go for easy targets.



5. Arriving at the Demonstration

If the demonstration requires you to be there for a couple of days and you need housing, it is important that you dig in your pocket and spend the money. Although spending money can be a drag, getting arrested will be very expensive and time consuming.



Group housing is sometimes unpredictable and sketchy. Sometimes undercover police and rookies who spread rumors end up in these places. The best thing to do is stay with the buddy you came to

town with. Lots of people are spied on and infiltrated in large group crashing houses so in a smaller place you are less conspicuous. Try to get as close to the action as possible even if it costs you more money. A snatch squad can easily arrest you on your way from your housing to the action. So the closer you are to the action the better.

Most people who attend demonstrations on the fly are the first to get arrested. They come to the action with little sleep and no preparation making them not alert to dangers.

6. Coming to the Action

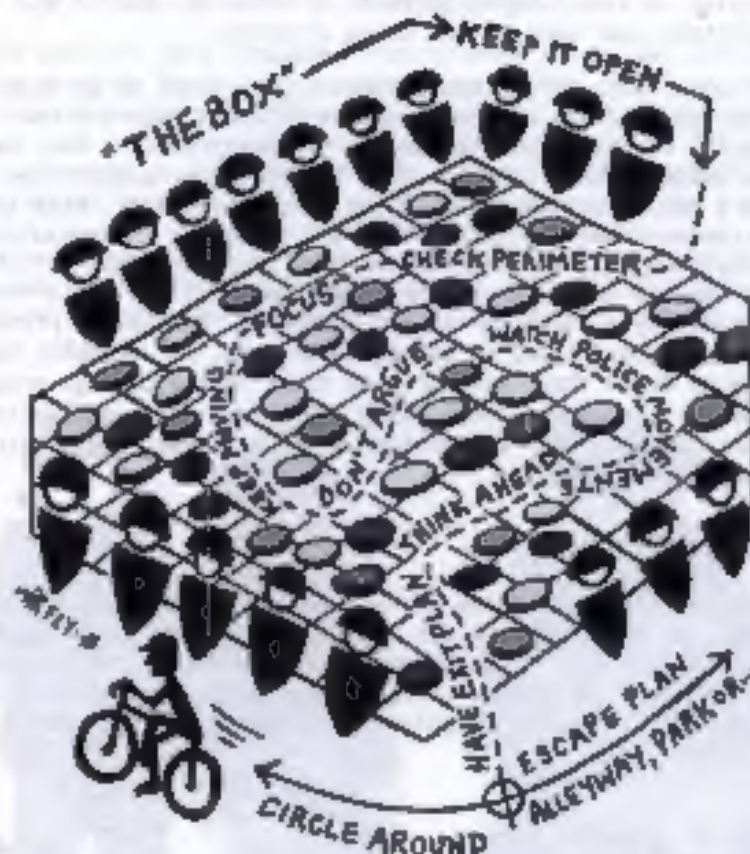
OK, you're ready to demonstrate. You've slept, your clothes are clean, and you have your phone numbers, including those of lawyers.

Arrive early. Even if you have to go to a coffee shop beforehand, coming late means you'll be rushing and you won't be prepared. This is a good time to identify the demonstrators, the police and the police's equipment.

Walk around the area's perimeter with your buddy. The perimeter is the block or two around where the demonstration is meeting. It's an invisible line that you have to know in order not to get arrested. This could also be referred to as **The Box**. You never want the police to complete it. Keep one side of the perimeter open for activists to pass in and out of it.

Do not accept any stickers, pins or markings that will define you as a demonstrator. Wearing these objects will increase your chance of being arrested.

Try to meet as many people as you can without talking to them for too long. Get their numbers. Consider who could help you not to get arrested. Don't get personally involved in any situations, especially not arguments with police. Once you lose your concentration, you're more likely to be arrested. Stay focused. Once a demonstration starts, a chess game begins. You have the legal First Amendment right to play it. Your objective is survival. When you make a chess move, you have to think ahead to the next move. You need to sit like that is on the street - always plan and take into account how police and under covers will react. As soon as you start moving, remember to check the perimeter, noting police. Watch out for the box. A box is when police have surrounded all sides of the demonstration and you're in the middle of it. You never want to be in that position. To avoid it, you



can use a bicycle. You will be able to collect more information and see the whole picture, thus decreasing your chance of arrest. If things get intense, you can easily move your bicycle to leave a demonstration, circle around it and see when you can re-enter. You can also help protesters by letting them know what's happening at the front and the back. Information is key, not opinions. Opinions are worthless at a demonstration. Real time information is key.

Another good system to avoid being arrested is called The Shark. The Shark always has to be moving or it dies. That's what you must do. You must always move and never stay in one place too long. Before you are arrested, someone has to identify you and consider your actions. If you're on the move, it is harder to target you.